

John Boehner  
Chairman  
8th District, Ohio

*House Meets at 9:30 a.m. for Legislative Business*

*Anticipated Floor Action:*

**H.R. 2169—FY 1998 Transportation Appropriations Act (Conference Report)**

**H.R. 2607—FY 1997 District of Columbia Appropriations Act**



**H.R. 2169—FY 1998 Transportation Appropriations Act (Conference Report)**

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider the conference report to H.R. 2169 as its first order of business today. Conference reports are privileged and may be considered anytime three days after they are filed; they are debatable for one hour, may not be amended, and are subject to one motion to recommit. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a rule waiving all points of order against the conference report and its consideration.

**Summary:** The conference report to H.R. 2169 appropriates \$12.4 billion in net new budget authority for transportation programs in FY 1998, \$107 million less than the House-passed bill and \$2 billion more than last year. It also provides \$27.7 billion in limitations on obligations, \$49.5 million more than the House-passed bill and \$3.7 billion more than last year. Specifically, the conference report appropriates (1) \$12.1 billion to the Department of Transportation programs (\$107 million less than the House-passed bill); (2) \$3.9 billion for the U.S. Coast Guard (\$34.8 million more than the House-passed bill); (3) \$7.4 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration (a \$16.6 million increase); (4) \$936.8 million for the Federal Railroad Administration (an \$18 million increase); and (5) \$4.8 billion for the Federal Transit Administration (\$6 million more than the House-passed bill).

**Views:** The Republican leadership supports passage of the measure. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time.

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #21, July 18, 1997; and #28, Pt. IV, October 8, 1997.



## H.R. 2607—FY 1997 District of Columbia Appropriations Act

**Floor Situation:** The House will consider H.R. 2607 after it completes consideration of the conference report to H.R. 2169. Appropriations bills are privileged and may be considered anytime three days after they are filed. Yesterday, the Rules Committee granted a modified closed rule which provides for one hour of general debate, equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Appropriations Committee. The rule makes in order a manager's amendment by Mr. Taylor (NC) as base text. It also waives House rules which prohibit (1) legislative provisions in an appropriations bill and (2) reappropriations. It also makes in order two amendments, each debatable for the amount of time specified below, and waives all points of order against their consideration. The chairman of the Committee of the Whole may postpone votes and reduce the voting time on a postponed vote to five minutes, provided that it follows a regular 15-minute vote. Finally, the rule allows one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

**Summary:** H.R. 2607 appropriates \$827.5 million for the federal payment to the District of Columbia (D.C.), \$50.5 million more than the president's request, to fund the operation of the Nation's Capitol, D.C. Correction activities, and D.C. courts. Of this amount, the bill provides (1) \$180 million for the federal contribution for the cost of city government operations; (2) \$471 million for the Corrections Trustees for facility construction repair and transitional housing for felons; (3) \$123 million for operating city courts; and (4) \$7 million for education scholarships to give low-income families a choice of schools.

The bill also:

- \* repeals the property tax exemption for the National Education Association;
- \* prohibits the use of any federal or district-raised funding to provide abortions, except in the case of rape, incest, or danger to the mother's life;
- \* expands the prohibition on the use of any federal or district-raised funding for implementing programs that extend the same rights as married couples to cohabitating unmarried couples—such as domestic partners—to include D.C. Law and Code citations; and
- \* grants D.C. public schools the option to waive Davis-Bacon requirements which force them to pay contractors the area's prevailing wage.

**Views:** The Republican Leadership supports passage of the bill. An official Clinton Administration viewpoint was unavailable at press time. Unofficially, however, the administration has threatened to veto the bill because of the provision to provide education scholarships to low-income families.

The manager's amendment, which will be considered as base text, makes a number of clarifying changes to the bill, including (1) stipulating that \$10 million is earmarked for pay raises for teachers and *principals*; (2) prohibiting the water and sewer authority from obligating non-appropriated funds; (3) placing the lottery board under the Chief Financial Officer during a control year; and (4) limiting the amount of public assistance that may be provided under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant to the amount authorized by federal law. **Staff Contact:** *Americo Miconi, x5-5338*

**Amendments:** As stated above, the rule makes in order two amendments, each debatable for the amount of time specified.

**Mr. Sabo** will offer an amendment, debatable for 10 minutes, to retain current law requirements regarding Davis-Bacon and public school contractors. Davis-Bacon requires contractors to pay the prevailing area wage. Currently, the bill grants public school contractors the authority to waive Davis-Bacon for construction and repair laborers. The member points to studies that suggest waiving Davis-Bacon actually increases costs because less skilled workers are hired, which results in missed deadlines and sub-par craftsmanship. Supporters of waiving Davis-Bacon, however, argue that waiving the requirement will help the District attract volunteer services to help with the emergency repairs needed at D.C.'s public schools. **Staff Contact: Mike Erlandson, x5-4755**

**Mr. Moran** will offer a substitute amendment, debatable for 90 minutes, to strike the text of H.R. 2607 and insert the Senate's version of the D.C. appropriations bill (S. 1156), while maintaining the current House provision that grants a five percent pay raise to police officers and firefighters. One of the main differences between the substitute and the current House bill is that the substitute does not include numerous legislative provisions. The few legislative provisions that are maintained in the substitute include identical provisions regarding abortion and domestic partners. The most controversial difference is that the substitute does not provide federal funds for D.C. scholarships.

The substitute provides \$793 million in federal funds, \$35 million less than the current bill. Specifically, the substitute provides \$190 million, \$10 million more than the House bill, for the federal contribution to the operations of the Nation's Capitol. The substitute does not provide federal funding for the U.S. park police. In addition, the substitute's approval of the D.C. budget is very similar to the budget submitted by the D.C. Control Board and the mayor. The substitute (1) earmarks \$105 million for Governmental Direction and Support, \$14 million less than the current bill; (2) \$529 million for Public Safety and Justice, \$26 million more than the House bill; and (3) \$455 million for Financing and Other Uses, \$33 million less than the current bill. **Staff Contact: Cheryl Smith, x5-3481**

**Additional Information:** See *Legislative Digest*, Vol. XXVI, #28, October 3, 1997.




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